

CITY MANAGER PRESENTS PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET FOR FY 2013-2014

(GREENVILLE SC) Greenville City Manager John Castile presented the City's proposed FY 2013-2014 operating budget to City Council at the first of two work sessions this afternoon. The proposed budget for all funds is \$131,624,486, including a General Fund budget of \$67,707,670. This represents an overall budgetary decrease of 0.2% and a General Fund increase of 3.3% from the adopted FY 2012-2013 operating budget. The property tax millage remains at 85.4, marking the 18th consecutive year with no increase to the tax rate. The proposed budget includes a recommended 5.0% rate adjustment for the wastewater fee and a 2.1% rate adjustment for the stormwater fee.

According to Castile, the FY 2013-2014 proposed operating budget is based on three key objectives: reinvest in the City's infrastructure and equipment to protect its assets and avoid higher costs in the future, make targeted investments to provide Greenville with an even brighter future through economic development and productivity improvements and invest in people to help ensure the organization has a quality workforce. The budget includes \$3,396,069 across all funds for vehicle and equipment replacement and acquisition and reflects the \$7,384,000 appropriation made in the proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The budget also includes \$410,000 for an Information Technology Improvement Program centered around e-government solutions to better serve citizens, a contribution of \$231,250 for the "Yeah, That Greenville" campaign to promote Greenville to visitors, \$50,000 for economic development marketing and professional services and \$50,000 to improve the landscaping on I-385. Additionally, the budget includes \$64,250 to expand the City's tuition reimbursement program.

City Council's second budget workshop is scheduled for May 13 and a public hearing on the proposed budget is scheduled for May 20 at 5:30 p.m. in City Council chambers. Following the public hearing, City Council will hold first reading on the budget ordinance. Second reading for the CIP and the budget is scheduled for June 10.

Interested citizens can view the proposed budget online at http://www.greenvillesc.gov/OMB/Budget13-14.aspx or view hard copies at City Hall in the Greenville Cares office on the 1st floor, the Office of Management & Budget on the 7th floor and the City Clerk's office on the 10th floor.

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